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AFGHANISTAN

BEFORE & AFTER

Central Medical Stores Overhauled

Afghanistan's Central Medical Stores is the sole entity for the distribution of essential medicines in the country.

The Ministry of Public Health's Central Medical Stores (CMS) was badly damaged in war and poorly maintained for more than 20 years. Despite being the Ministry's central warehouse for pharmaceuticals and medical equipment, the CMS became a dumping ground for obsolete or damaged equipment, and had no procedures for selling or disposing of unneeded goods. An impressive collection of broken wheelchairs, beds, boilers, fire extinguishers, exhaust fans, heating equipment, and other goods were strewn about haphazardly.

Mr. Abdul Razak, who has worked for the CMS since 1990, described the situation: "With poor lighting, my team would work in near darkness and misplace boxes – we wasted time readjusting stock due to bad storage practices. The walls bore scars from the rocket bombs that destroyed part of the warehouse, and rats, cockroaches, spider webs, mold, and dust, were common."

Efficiently managed medical stores are critical to a functioning health system, ensuring that Afghans have access quality medicines. In response, USAID helped refurbish the CMS and established a cold storage room.

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BEFORE Central Medical Stores in Kabul is the sole entity for government storage of essential medicines and medical equipment. Over the past 20 years, the building was badly damaged and poorly maintained.



AFTER With USAID support, the Central Medical Stores was refurbished. The renovated, well-lit warehouse is now air-conditioned to maintain the proper temperature range to help ensure the quality of essential medicines is not degraded.